Arms dropped by Pak Army

†4728. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pak army has dropped weapons in the Indian territory several times in the past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that once again the failure of intelligence agencies have been exposed in this matter; and

(d) the response of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Even while it is well known that Pakistan has been actively engaged in attempts to push in arms and ammunition in Indian territory with the objective of intensifying the proxy war in J & K, no instance of Pakistani Army having dropped weapons in the Indian territory has come to notice.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Modernisation of Army with latest Equipment

4729. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the "Asian Age dated 29th March, 2000 captioned "Army parks funds with PSU to save 1000 crores";

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to modernise and upgrading army with latest equipment?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The procurements of equipments/stores from defence public sector undertakings (PSUs) are made against specific demand of the Services only after obtaining commercial offers and price negoitations by a duly constituted Price Negotiation Committee (PNC). The terms of payment are also *inter alia*, negotiated and mutually agreed. Advances/on account payments are released to the PSU against specific orders. The Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) supplies

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

are made to the Army under book debit system, thus, it is not correct to say that funds from the Army budget are diverted to the defence PSU and OFB.

(c) Upgradation and moderniation of Army is a continuous and on going process. All steps are being taken to upgrade and modernise the Indian Army, keeping in the view threat perceptions.

FRT Adiytya for Navy

4730. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether INS-Aditya, an advanced Fleet Replenishment Tanker has joined the Navy's tanker fleet;

(b) if so, the main features of this new tanker; and

(c) how far it has helped Indian acquire blue-water capability?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This is a 24,612 tonnes Replenishment Tanker capable of replenishing Fleet Ships at sea while underway. It also carries helicopters which can be used for vertical replenishment.

(c) The ship can support fleet operations for extended duration and extended ranges.

Defence Personnel in Pak Jails

4731. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report appeared in "The Hindustan Times" of 20th April, 2000 titled "Missing Defence Personnel's relatives see ray of hope".;

(b) whether it is a fact that there are a number of defence personnel languishing in Pakistan jails since 1971 as PoW;;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what actions have been taken by Government to obtain their release?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.